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A NEW CUBAN LAND OPERCULATE.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

During a recent visit to Cuba Dr. Henry Skinner, in the intervals of entomological researches, collected a few land shells. Some dirt scraped up on the San Carlos Estate, near Guantánamo, contained over twenty species of shells, including the following new species, which is named in honor of Mr. Charles T. Ramsden, Manager of the Estate, in acknowledgment of his attainments in Cuban entomology, ornithology and conchology.

The new species is by far the smallest cyclophoroid snail yet known from Cuba, and is further of interest for the reason that it is a distinctly phylogerontic or aged form, such as the writer has found in numerous other Antillean groups. The snail fauna of the West Indies contains many groups bearing the marks of old age, and in all probability approaching extinction. Sometimes this is manifested by extravagant development of spines, hollow ribs or knobs, often by more or less uncoiling in the later stages of growth. Some other families of the fauna show no signs of decadence.

The systematic position of the new species is doubtful, since none retained the operculum; but it is evidently congeneric with the Haitian shell described as *Ceratodiscus solutus* Henderson and Simpson (Nautilus XV, p. 73, pl. 5, figs. 1, 2). Both of these species seem related to the *Cyclotus minimus* Gundl., of Pfeiffer (Mon. Pneumon. III Suppl. 2, p. 16; Suppl. 3, p. 31.) which has been referred to *Crocidopoma*, a subgenus of *Aperostoma*, but I believe incorrectly. The operculum of *C. minimus* is extremely peculiar. The nucleus is

at the external border. A smooth, wedge-shaped area radiates towards the columellar margin, and the areas above and below this are lamellose, the lamellæ at right angles to the sides of the median wedge. This is quite unlike all known genera of the region.

CERATODISCUS RAMSDENI n. sp.

The shell is minute, planorboid, the spire slightly sunken, umbilicus open, conic, showing all the whorls. Whorls $2\frac{2}{3}$, tubular, the last whorl descending slightly and becoming free from the preceding a short distance behind the aperture. Initial half whorl smooth; following whorl having several raised spiral threads; subsequent whorls with sculpture of fine, somewhat irregular growth-lines only. The aperture is slightly oblique, not quite circular, the inner border being a little straightened. The peristome expands just perceptibly, and is not or scarcely thickened.

Alt. 1.3, diam. 3 mm.

Guantánamo, Cuba, on the San Carlos Estate, numerous specimens.

This species is far smaller than *C. minimus*, and differs by the restriction of spiral sculpture to the first neanic whorl, and by the free end of the last whorl. In *C. minimus* the spiral sculpture continues upon the last whorl. Although the specimens of *C. ramsdeni* were dirty when collected, I doubt whether they are so in life. *C. minimus* carries a peculiar, bicarinate coat of dirt, firmly cemented on with mucus, and which almost or quite conceals the shell.

C. solutus H. & S., of Haiti, is a larger shell, more depressed, with the last whorl free for a greater distance.

The new species will be illustrated next month, together with various other new Cuban shells.

NOTES.

BY JAS. H. FERRISS.

A set of *Oreohelix iowensis* Pils. from Prof. B. Shimek of Iowa City, with gentle washing and a slight touch of oil exhibited their pink bands, though resurrected from their tombs in the Loess where they slept some thousands of years. The syringing also brought out five juveniles from one specimen, and some of those were also banded.